

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SANTO 02127 241256Z

43

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 AID-20 PC-10 DRC-01 /126 W

----- 024960

R 241145Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0547

INFO AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

CINCSO

CINCLANT FOR POLAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTO DOMINGO 2127

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: BALAGUER'S VICTORY SPEECH

REF: SD 2108

1. IN A 40-MINUTE NATIONWIDE RADIO AND TELEVISION ADDRESS ON MAY 21, PRESIDENT BALAGUER THANKED THE COUNTRY FOR SUPPORTING HIM IN THE MAY 16 ELECTIONS AND CONGRATULATED THE CITIZENRY FOR ITS "MASSIVE PARTICIPATION" IN THE ELECTORAL PROCESS DESPITE WHAT HE CALLED THE "CONFUSION" CAUSED BY THE ABSTENTION OF THE SANTIAGO ACCORD. THE PRESIDENT NOTED THAT SOME 1.3 MILLION VOTERS (65) PERCENT) CAST THEIR BALLOTS ON MAY 16 IN CONTRAST TO THE 1970 U.S. ELECTIONS WHERE 55 PERCENT OF THE ELIGIBLE VOTERS ABSTAINED AND TO THE RECENT COLOMBIAN ELECTIONS WHERE ONLY SOME FOUR MILLION VOTES WERE REGISTERED IN A COUNTRY OF 23 MILLION INHABITANTS. HE ASSERTED THAT THE "EXTRAORDINARY" VOTER TURNOUT WAS ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE "SILENT MAJORITY". BALAGUER INDICATED THAT UNOFFICIAL RETURNS SHOWED THAT THE REFORMISTA PARTY HAD WON AN "OVERWHELMING" VICTORY; IN 53 OF THE COUNTRY'S 78 MUNICIPIOS THE REFORMISTAS HAD RECEIVED OVER 50 PERCENT OF THE BALLOTS OF THE REGISTERED VOTERS.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SANTO 02127 241256Z

COMPARING THE 1974 RESULTS TO THOSE OF 1970, BALAGUER

CLAIMED THAT THE ELECTORATE HAD THIS YEAR EXPRESSED EVEN MORE CLEARLY THAN IN THE PAST ITS SUPPORT FOR HIS GOVERNMENT.

2. BALAGUER SEVERELY CRITICIZED WHAT HE LABELLED THE OPPOSITION'S "ABSURD" ABSTENTION AND NOTED THAT "FROM ABSTENTION, IT IS EASY TO PASS TO CONSPIRACY, AN EXTREMELY DANGEROUS PATH, AS MUCH FOR THE COUNTRY AND FOR THOSE WHO GOVERN AS FOR THE CONSPIRATORS. WHEN ONE CONSPIRES AGAINST THE LEGAL INSTITUTIONS, IN A DEMOCRACY OR A DICTATORSHIP, NO ONE HAS HIS HEAD SECURELY ON HIS SHOULDERS."

3. BALAGUER STRESSED THAT OPPOSITION ALLEGATIONS OF FRAUD DID NOT SURPRISE HIM, HAVING HEARD THE SAME CHARGES IN 1966 AND 1970. HE PREDICTED THAT AS LONG AS THERE WERE POLITICIANS AND ELECTIONS IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, THERE WOULD BE ALLEGATIONS OF FRAUD AFTER EVERY ELECTIONS. BALAGUER OPINED THAT THE OPPOSITION, "CRUSHED BY ITS ERROR OF POLITICAL STRATEGY IN ABSTAINING," COULD HAVE WON AN "APPRECIABLE NUMBER" OF OFFICES IN THE CONGRESS AND MUNICIPALITIES.

4. BALAGUER REITERATED HIS INTENTION TO MAKE THE NEXT FOUR YEARS'S A PERIOD OF TRANSITION AIMED AT REACHING A "FUNCTIONAL DEMOCRACY" BY 1978. IN THIS REGARD, HE INDICATED THAT HIS AND HIS GOVERNMENT'S ARMS WERE OPEN TO MEMBERS OF THE OPPOSITION AND EXTENDED AN INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN HIS NEW GOVERNMENT TO ALL POLITICAL PARTIES, SPECIFICALLY MENTIONING THE PARTIDO REVOLUCIONARIO DOMINICANO (PRD) AND THE MOVIMIENTO POPULAR DOMINICANO (MPD). BALAGUER EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE GOVERNMENT WHICH TOOK OFFICE ON AUGUST 16 "WOULD REALLY BE ONE OF NATIONAL UNITY." HE WARNED, NONETHELESS, THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT TOLERATE "CRIMINALITY" AND ASSERTED THAT HE WOULD MAINTAIN NATIONAL PEACE AND PUBLIC ORDER ABOVE ALL. (BALAGUER'S RELEASE OF THE FIVE MPD LEADERS WAS REPORTED IN SEPTEL SD 2108).

5. COMMENT. THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH WAS WELL-REASONED AND PERSUASIVE AND SERVED TO UNDERMINE SOMEWHAT THE OPPOSITION'S ATTACKS ON THE GOVERNMENT AND ITS THUS-FAR UNSUBSTANTIATED ALLEGATIONS OF MASSIVE ELECTORAL FRAUD. BALAGUER'S APPROACH
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SANTO 02127 241256Z

TOWARD THE OPPOSITION WAS CONCILIATORY IN NATURE. HE CHARACTERISTICALLY USED THE "CARROT AND STICK" TECHNIQUE, OFFERING THE OPPOSITION THE CHOICE BETWEEN COLLABORATION ON THE ONE HAND OR AN OFFICIAL CRACKDOWN SHOULD THEY STEP OUT OF LINE ON THE OTHER. BALAGUER'S SPECIFIC OFFER TO THE PRD AND MPD TO COOPERATE WAS A SHREWD GESTURE AND MAY SERVE TO DIVIDE ELEMENTS WITHIN THE OPPOSITION WHO SEE THE NEXT FOUR YEAR'S AS LEAN ONES. IT IS WIDELY EXPECTED THAT AT LEAST

SOME FORMER OPPOSITIONISTS WILL BE ATTRACTED TO THE GOVERNMENT BY BALAGUER'S OFFER. NONETHELESS, PRD PRESIDENT, LIC. SECUNDINO GIL MORALES, IN A STATEMENT TO THE PRESS ON MAY 22, STATED IT WOULD BE "TREASON" FOR THE OPPOSITION TO ACCEPT BALAGUER'S INVITATION TO FORM A NATIONAL UNITY GOVERNMENT.

6. FULL SPANISH TEXT OF BALAGUER'S SPEECH IS BEING AIR-POUCHED.
HURWITCH

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESIDENT, ELECTION RESULTS, INVITATION, POLITICAL STABILITY, SPEECHES, VOTING ABSTENTIONS, OPPOSITION PARTIES, POLITICAL PARTIES, ELECTION FRAUD
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 MAY 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GarlanWA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974SANTO02127
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740130-0898
From: SANTO DOMINGO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740519/aaaaaqpz.tel
Line Count: 124
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: SD 2108
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GarlanWA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17 SEP 2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <04 MAR 2003 by GarlanWA>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BALAGUER'S VICTORY SPEECH
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, DR, (BALAGUER)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005